AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 37-40 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 10, 19 and 28 are currently amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting information in a communication system that includes a platform and a prioritization apparatus, the method comprising:

receiving the information from the platform, wherein the platform is configured to provide a plurality of performance enhancing functions relating to performance of the communication system;

receiving one or more prioritization parameters from the platform, the prioritization parameters being associated with the performance enhancing functions, wherein the prioritization apparatus maintains a profile that contains the prioritization parameters, and the performance enhancing functions include spoofing of a connection for transport of the information by selectively intercepting the information and modifying the information, the spoofed connection being prioritized among a plurality of spoofed connections; and

processing the information in accordance with the profile.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining a path for the information based on the profile.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the information is transported via one or more packets, the method further comprising:

determining the path by applying at least one priority rule that specifies a criterion associated with the packet, the criterion indicating a source address, a destination address, a protocol type, a port number, a differentiated services parameter, or size of the packet.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a priority of the information is determined prior to receipt by the prioritization apparatus.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the prioritization parameters as a data structure from the platform.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the prioritization parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated path selection or path activation parameters.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

applying multiple prioritization rules using boolean operators.

10. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a platform configured to provide performance enhancing functions relating to performance of the communication system, the platform supplying information and one or more prioritization parameters;

a prioritization apparatus communicating with the platform, the prioritization apparatus being configured to receive the information and the prioritization parameters from the platform,

wherein the prioritization apparatus has a profile that specifies the prioritization parameters associated with the performance enhancing functions,

wherein the performance enhancing functions include spoofing of a connection for transport of the information by selectively intercepting the information and modifying the information, the spoofed connection being prioritized among a plurality of spoofed connections,

wherein the communication system is configured to process the information in accordance with the profile.

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11. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 10, wherein the prioritization apparatus determines a path for the information based on the profile.

12. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the information.is transported via one or more packets and the prioritization apparatus determines the path by applying at least one prioritization rule that specifies a criterion associated with the packet, the criterion indicating a source address, a destination address, a protocol type, a port number, a differentiated services parameter, or size of the packet.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The communication system of claim 10, wherein a priority of the information is determined prior to receipt by the prioritization apparatus.

15. (Original) The communication system of claim 10, wherein the prioritization apparatus determines whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path.

16. (Original) The communication system of claim 10, wherein the prioritization apparatus receives the prioritization parameters as a data structure from the platform.

17. (Original) The communication system of claim 10, wherein the prioritization apparatus receives the prioritization parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated prioritization parameters.

18. (Original) The communication system of claim 10, wherein the prioritization apparatus can apply multiple prioritization rules, combined using boolean operators.

19. (Currently Amended) A prioritization apparatus for transmitting information in a communication system, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving the information from a platform configured to provide a plurality of performance enhancing functions relating to performance of the communication system ;

means for receiving one or more prioritization parameters from the platform, the prioritization parameters being associated with the performance enhancing functions, wherein the performance enhancing functions include spoofing of a connection for transport of the information by selectively intercepting the information and modifying the information, the spoofed connection being prioritized among a plurality of spoofed connections;

means for maintaining a profile containing the prioritization parameters; and

means for processing the information in accordance with the profile.

20. (Previously Presented) The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the prioritization apparatus determines a path for the information based on the profile.

21. (Previously Presented) The prioritization apparatus of claim 20, wherein the information is transported via one or more packets and the prioritization apparatus determines the path by applying at least one prioritization rule that specifies a criterion associated with the packet, the criterion indicating a source address, a destination address, a protocol type, a port number, a differentiated services parameter, or size of the packet.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein a priority of the information is determined prior to receipt by the prioritization apparatus.

24. (Original) The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the prioritization apparatus determines whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path.

25. (Original) The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the prioritization apparatus receives the prioritization parameters as a data structure from the platform.

26. (Original) The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the prioritization apparatus receives the prioritization parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated prioritization parameters.

27. (Original) The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the prioritization apparatus can apply multiple prioritization rules, combined using boolean operators.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for transmitting information in a communication system that includes a platform and a prioritization apparatus, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving the information from the platform, wherein the platform is configured to provide a plurality of performance enhancing functions relating to performance of the communication system;

receiving one or more prioritization parameters from the platform, the prioritization parameters being associated with the performance enhancing functions, wherein the prioritization apparatus maintains a profile that contains the prioritization parameters, and the performance enhancing functions include spoofing of a connection for transport of the information by selectively intercepting the information and modifying the information, the spoofed connection being prioritized among a plurality of spoofed connections; and

processing the information in accordance with the profile.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:

determining a path for the information based on the profile.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the information is transported via one or more packets, the method further comprising:

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determining the path by applying at least one prioritization rule that specifies a criterion associated with the packet, the criterion indicating a source address, a destination address, a protocol type, a port number, a differentiated services parameter, or size of the packet.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein a priority of the information is determined prior to receipt by the prioritization apparatus.

33. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:

determining whether the information should be forwarded using an alternate path.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:

receiving the prioritization parameters as a data structure from the platform.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:

receiving the prioritization parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated prioritization parameters.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising:

applying multiple prioritization rules using boolean operators.

37. (Canceled) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the performance-enhancing functions include spoofing of a connection for transport of the information by selectively intercepting the information and modifying the information, the spoofed connection being prioritized among a plurality of spoofed connections.~~

38. (Canceled) ~~The communication system of claim 10, wherein the performance-enhancing functions include spoofing of a connection for transport of the information by selectively intercepting the~~

~~information and modifying the information, the spoofed connection being prioritized among a plurality of spoofed connections.~~

39. (Canceled) ~~The prioritization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the performance enhancing functions include spoofing of a connection for transport of the information by selectively intercepting the information and modifying the information, the spoofed connection being prioritized among a plurality of spoofed connections.~~

40. (Canceled) ~~The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the performance enhancing functions include spoofing of a connection for transport of the information by selectively intercepting the information and modifying the information, the spoofed connection being prioritized among a plurality of spoofed connections.~~